

CATEGORY C PULMONARY

1. Although impaired pulmonary function is seldom the cause of sudden death, it may seriously affect operators of vehicles in the following ways:
 - ! **Sudden severe coughing while driving may result in an accident**
 - ! **Cough syncope may occur while driving**
 - ! **Impaired cerebral oxygenation caused by impaired pulmonary function may result in mental confusion and/or impaired judgement.**
 2. For these and similar reasons, it is important to obtain an accurate picture of the pulmonary status of all applicants for driver licenses who have a history of problems or are observed to have respiratory difficulties at the time of examination.
 3. In assessing the severity of pulmonary impairment, effort is made to limit the tests to those found in most medical offices, although occasionally more sophisticated studies may be needed (e.g. arterial blood gases, maximal voluntary ventilation, etc.).
 4. The objective of classification according to pulmonary capacity, as in other functional categories, is to allow as much latitude as is consistent with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.
 5. The basic function tests (FVC and FEV) are the principal guidelines and standards currently recommended. These are subjective/objective tests. When they are required, three graphs should be made and every effort should be made to elicit the full cooperation of the examinee. A bronchodilator may be used if the examiner feels it is safe and justifiable. The best reading, with or without bronchodilators, should be used.
 6. In more severe cases of pulmonary impairment, measurement of arterial blood gases may be needed. If there is any question about the need for arterial gas measurements, the applicant usually would not qualify for profile levels 1 through 4, but the blood gas determinations may support a higher functional level than might otherwise appear indicated. They may also help in defining profiles appropriate to limited private driving.
 7. **COMMERCIAL INTRASTATE DRIVERS:** A commercial intrastate driver meeting the requirements of profile 3 and 4 will qualify for a license to drive commercial vehicles within the state boundaries. Levels 3 and 4 require re-evaluation each year. If oxygen is required, even intermittently during driving, the driver will be limited to a Class C or D license and may not carry hazardous material. If the driver is carrying passengers, a NO SMOKING sign must be prominently displayed in the vehicle.
- NOTE:** Regular and/or commercial intrastate drivers using supplemental oxygen for treatment of sleep disorders are considered separately. See category K.